

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) An isolated substantially homogeneous *mpl* ligand having thrombopoietic activity comprising an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of:

- (i) a human *mpl* ligand EPO-domain fragment, hML₁₅₃ having an amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO:1 and Fig. 1 [(SEQ ID NO:1)] and,
- (ii) a variant *mpl* ligand having at least 90% amino acid sequence identity with hML₁₅₃.

2. (Currently amended) The *mpl* ligand of Claim 1 selected from the group consisting of

- (a) a fragment *mpl* ligand comprising amino acid residues 1 to X as shown in SEQ ID NO:1 and [[of]] Fig. 1 [(SEQ ID NO:1)], where X is selected from the group consisting of amino acid residues 153, 164, 191, 205, 207, 217, 229 and 245;
- (b) a variant *mpl* ligand comprising a ligand having at least 95% amino acid sequence identity with hML₁₅₃; and
- (c) a chimeric protein comprising a *mpl* ligand of (a) or (b) fused to a molecule selected from the group consisting of an IgG fragment, IL-3, G-CSF and EPO.

3-5. (Cancelled)

6. (Currently amended) A fragment *mpl* ligand according to Claim 2, wherein the amino acid sequence of the *mpl* ligand comprises amino acid residues 1 to X as shown in SEQ

ID NO:1 and [[of]] Fig. 1 [(SEQ ID NO: 1)], where X is selected from the group 153, 164, 191, 205, 207, 217, 229 and 245.

7-16. (Cancelled)

17. (Currently amended) The chimeric protein of Claim 1 comprising the N-terminus residues 1 to about 153 to 157 of hML shown in SEQ ID NO:6 and Fig. 10 [(SEQ ID NO:6)] fused to human erythropoietin (EPO) shown in SEQ ID NO:7 and Fig. 10 [(SEQ ID NO:7)].

18-37. (Cancelled)

38. (Previously presented) The *mpl* ligand of Claim 1 that is full length human *mpl* ligand hML₃₃₂.

39. (Previously presented) The *mpl* ligand of Claim 1 that is an EPO-domain fragment human *mpl* ligand hML₁₅₃.

40. (Previously presented) The *mpl* ligand of Claim 38 that is glycosylated.

41. (Previously presented) The *mpl* ligand of Claim 6 further comprising an N-methionyl residue.

42. (Previously presented) The *mpl* ligand of Claim 41 that is unglycosylated.

43. (Currently amended) The *mpl* ligand of Claim 1 [[42]] further comprising a nonproteinaceous polymer covalently linked to the *mpl* ligand selected from the group consisting of polyethylene glycol, polypropylene glycol and polyoxyalkylene.

44. (Previously presented) The variant *mpl* ligand of Claim 2 that is an amino acid substitution variant in which at least one amino acid residue in the *mpl* ligand is removed and a difference residue is inserted in its place.

45. (Previously presented) The variant *mpl* ligand of Claim 44 that is hML₃₃₂ (R153A, R154A).

46. (New) A composition comprising the isolated substantially homogeneous *mpl* ligand of claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

47. (New) The composition of Claim 46 used in combination with a therapeutically effective amount of an agent selected from the group consisting of a cytokine, a colony stimulating factor, and an interleukin.

48. (New) The composition of Claim 47 wherein the agent is selected from LIF, G-CSF, GM-CSF, M-CSF, EPO, IL-1, IL-2, IL-3, IL-5, IL-6, IL-7, IL-8, IL-9 and IL-11.